

How can I get a job at the National Park Service? (June 2009)



People ask this all the time. It is possible to get jobs, but you must be persistent and adaptable. The federal job website: www.usajobs.opm.gov lists all federal jobs along with requirements and application procedures, but it is intimidating to navigate. At that website, fill in the job title or agency you are interested in, your zip code, and click on job search. You will get all jobs within 100 miles of you. Here are other suggestions to help you in the Federal Job hunt maze.

Begin with background information at these NPS websites:

www.nps.gov/personnel/index.htm, has an overview of all types of NPS jobs, permanent and seasonal. You are referred to usajobs to apply.

www.nps.gov/fire/index.cfm has an overview of NPS fire jobs, additional training opportunities and apprenticeships. You will be referred to usajobs to apply.

www.firejobs.doi.gov has info on temporary fire positions for all agencies within the Department of the Interior. You can apply on line using their secure website for jobs in up to seven locations.

If law enforcement as a Park Ranger interests you, some type of law enforcement training is needed. This can be previous military or police work, or completion of park ranger training, such as that offered in spring and fall at Santa Rosa Junior College. For information on this program, go to:

www2.santarosa.edu/pages/public-safety-training-center/law-enforcement-corrections/ranger-academy.php/.

There is no age limit for seasonal Law Enforcement positions, but you can't get a permanent position if you are over age 35.

Competition for these jobs is tough. How do you get the background needed to give yourself a competitive edge? You become an intern or become a volunteer.

Intern positions are for college students (or recent graduates) of any age who have had classroom experience and want real job experience in the work world. Intern positions are handled directly at local office levels. At Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, visit the intern web pages at:

www.nps.gov/samo/parkmgmt/internships.htm Intern Coordinator Sheila Braden can be contacted via email sheila_braden@nps.gov or phone at (805) 370 2394.

Volunteer positions are handled both at the local and at the national level. At the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area contact Mike Malone by phone at (805) 370-2317 or email: mike_malone@nps.gov for local volunteer positions. Use the web site: www.nps.gov/volunteer/ for listings of volunteer positions nationwide.

Good luck and success on your job quest!